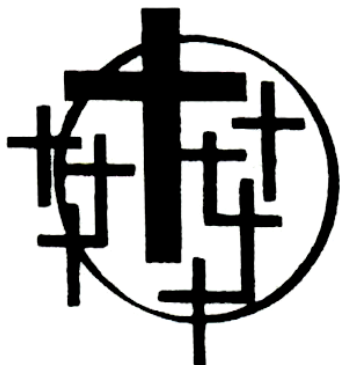




St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

(609) 466-0939 web site: stpeternj.org

pastor@stpeternj.org secretary@stpeternj.org

Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

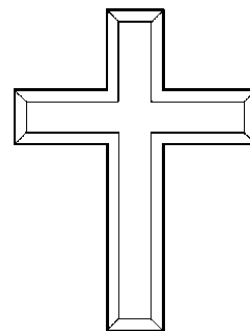
Welcome Message. It's not often that we hear the Lord Jesus speak as harshly as he did to one of his closest disciples and dearest friends, Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" What prompted such a reprimand? Peter was trying to keep Jesus from doing his greatest and most glorious work - going to the cross. Peter's reliance on human "wisdom" was threatening to obstruct the salvation plan of God. Sometimes our ways of thinking get us into the same kind of trouble. Listen to Jesus, and let his word shape you in ways that are truly wise!

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

Communion Note: We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

Divine Service, Setting Four

LSB page 203



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution (page 203)

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn: 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Kyrie (page 204)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord...

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

(The congregation sings this in response to each petition.)

Hymn of Praise To God on High Be Glory (page 204)

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth.
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior; You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.



Prayer of the Day (page 205)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God,

Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption.

Grant us courage to take up our cross daily

and follow Him wherever He leads;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21 (see back cover)



Psalm 26



¹ Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have
walked in my in- | tegrity,*
and I have trusted in the LORD
without | wavering.

² Prove me, O LORD, and | try me; *
test my heart | and my mind.

³ For your steadfast love is be- | fore my
eyes,*
and I walk in your | faithfulness.

⁴ I do not sit with men of | falsehood,*
nor do I consort with | hypocrites.

⁵ I hate the assembly of evil- | doers,*
and I will not sit with the | wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in | innocence*
and go around your altar, | O LORD,

⁷ proclaiming thanksgiving | aloud,*
and telling all your | wondrous deeds.

⁸ O LORD, I love the habitation | of your
house*
and the place where your | glory
dwells.

⁹ Do not sweep my soul away
with | sinners,*
nor my life with blood- | thirsty men,

¹⁰ in whose hands are evil de- | vices,*
and whose right hands are | full of
bribes.

¹¹ But as for me, I shall walk in my
in- | tegrity;*
redeem me, and be gra- | cious to me.

¹² My foot stands on | level ground,*
in the great assembly I will | bless the
LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21 (see back cover)

Triple Alleluia page 205 (*sung before and after the Verse of the Day*)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Verse of the Day (Cantor): Whoever would save his life will / lose it, *
but whoever loses his life for my sake will / find it.*

(Matt 16:25)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Matthew 16:21-28

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (see the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee (st 1-3)

Sermon

Prayers After each petition of the prayer P: Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For those in need of comfort:

The Launchbaugh family	death of Lexi	Dunbar
The Shivers/Watson families	death of Paul	deDufour
The Troast family	death of Cathy	deDufour

For those with health concerns:

Carol Farley	Valentina Teschke	Emma Finan	Barbara Nixon	Jan
Rich Mount	Olivia Moorhead	Bill Hotaling	Robert Mason	Doug
Susan Miller	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Doug Schorpp	Claire
Mark McCracken	Sue Bridenbough	Jeff Corelli	Liz Schorpp	Beverly
Lucy Borden	Lorraine Van Hise	Pat Dietz	Carlie	Sid
Judy Dito	John Tarlo	Asta Lynch	Susan	Brennan
Pete Seronew	Betty Bush	Frank Lynch	Zane	Penny
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Harry Naylor	Grant	
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Marge Keen	Noah	
Neuza Smukler	Eric Teschke	Mark McCracken	Dawn R.	

For those with cancer:

Herb Johns	Hilda Summers	Gerry Campbell	Howard Zahn	Mary Anne
Carol Tezla	Steve Saumsiegle	Joe Campbell	Rich Knechel	Lance
Kim McCollough	Nancy Gilliland	Aunt Jean	Chris Legere	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Rita Piratsky	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Barbara Holzhauser	Frank
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Trudy	Lynn
Joan Rawls	Arlene Bodholt	Carol Storr	Dana	Dora
Jane Forder	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Jason	Lynn J.
Elvis Rowsey	Debra Mueller	Dave Elison	Doris	Michael B.
Robert Miller	John Farley			

For those serving in the armed forces and their families:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Emily Arndt	Jake Grube	Christopher Ryan Callahan
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Jim Buckman	Mike Bahney	

For those with needs around the world:

Seeing Eye program

For dogs' successful training and placement

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families

For strong orientation week and start of school year

Birthdays

Brad Hoppe Aug 31

Matthew Cudmore Sep 1

Julius Mallepalle Sep 3

Jill Grube Sep 4

Morgyn Johnson Sep 5

Offering

Instrumental Offertory

Order of Holy Communion (page 208)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God... Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven...

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed...

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

C: O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 629 What Is This Bread

Post-Communion Collect p. 212

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen

Benedicamus and Benediction (page 212)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and...

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns (st 1, 4-5)

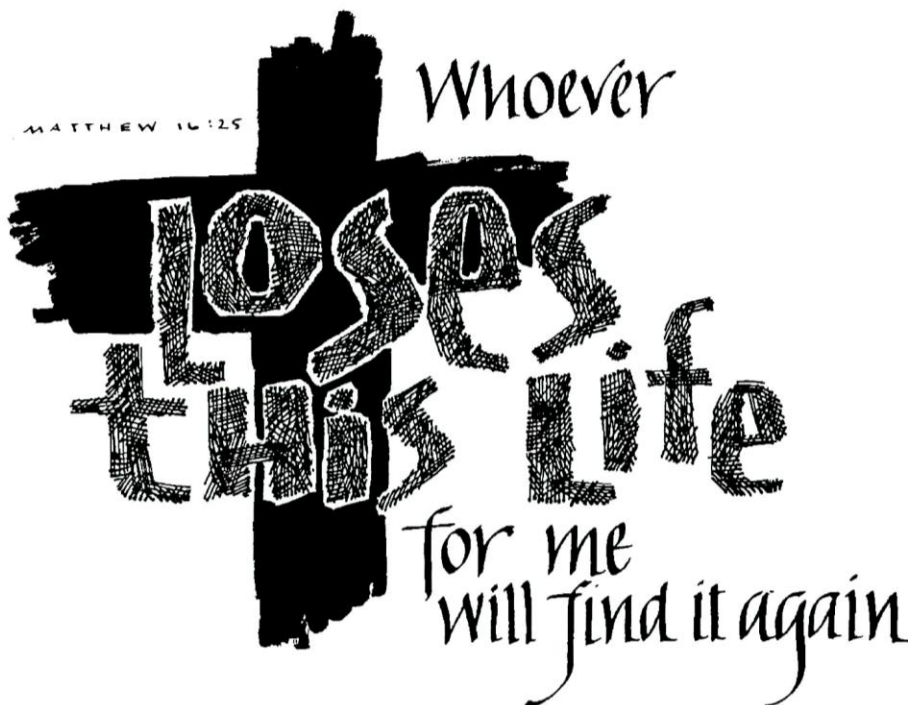
Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude





Announcements – Week of August 30, 2026

Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week
MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are Stephen Behnfeldt (Communion Assistant), Juliet Behnfeldt (Reader), Thomas Cresap (acolyte), Mark and Liam McAllister (Ushers), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Shirley Yost and Amy Van Hise (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtu.be/SDaPcp0RQDA> If you miss the service live, watch it on YouTube! The services are also posted to the church's website.

Sunday 8:15 Bible Study and Wednesday Zoom Bible Study- These bible studies are now on break for the summer. We'll resume in September.

Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (8/30)	9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group
FRIDAY (9/4)	5:00p Wedding rehearsal
SATURDAY (9/6)	4:00p Kianka Wedding
SUNDAY (9/6)	9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group

Back-to-School Blessing for Teachers and Students. Join us on Sunday, September 13th during our 9:30 service for a special Blessing of the Backpacks! As the new school year gets under way, we invite all students, teachers, and school staff to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or school bags to be blessed. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray for God's protection, guidance and wisdom over all who are returning to school. Let's lift up our students and educators as they embark on another year of learning and growth!

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL ST. PETER PICNIC ON SEPTEMBER 13.

Our annual picnic will take place following the service on Sunday, September 13. Sign up to bring specific needs (see list on the bulletin board) or just bring a side dish or dessert. It promises to be lots of fun - hope to see you there!



St. Peter Women's Breakfast Saturday Sept. 19. Since the guys have been meeting for breakfast for years now, it's time the women give it a shot! Please join us for a breakfast and Bible Study fellowship time Saturday, September 19th at 10am in the big room downstairs. The guys have offered to bring breakfast casserole, so we can bring baked goods and fruit! Bring yourself, bring a friend, see you there!



Saturday Outdoor Vespers Service. On Saturday, September 26 at 6:30pm we'll have an outdoor vespers service on the parsonage lawn. Bring your own chair and a flashlight (or phone). Join us as we set aside this special time of worship and fellowship to dedicate the fall season into God's hands with His beautiful creation.

****Attention Lutheran Witness subscribers, and those who might want to try it out:**

It is time to renew, or initiate a subscription for, the Lutheran Witness, “the official flagship periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Published 11 times a year, it provides news, feature articles, and commentary intended to help readers interpret contemporary life and culture from a traditional confessional Lutheranism perspective. **Regular Features** include synod updates, Q&A sections, theological columns, and deep dives into Christian ethics and practice.” There are several copies on the table in the narthex if you'd like to look it over.

The cost is \$25 for a 2026-27 subscription, which will begin with the November issue. Please put your payment in a labeled envelope in the offering basket, or you can put it on Amy's desk. Payment is due by .

Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry. Join us in making special blankets to bless those in need of comfort or in celebration of a life event! Please speak with Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928.

Flowers. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to do so. Suggested donation is \$25. You may take the flowers home following the service on the day you select.

**Flowers are placed on the altar with all glory to God
in memory of Catherine Pfeiffer.**

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: Aug 23: Attendance: 61 / 3 online Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$2974
Flowers: \$50

Weekly giving needed for budget: \$6890

Food Pantry. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. **September's** collection is **Breakfast items** – cereal, shelf-stable milk, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, pancake mix, syrup, etc. You can sign up on the bulletin board to deliver items by month as well. Any questions, please see Leslie Klesat.

Website and Facebook. Come online to check us out! Our website is at www.stpeternj.org, and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church – the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612> .

St. Peter YouTube Channel. Increase St. Peter's online visibility by liking and subscribing to our YouTube channel (where we live-stream and record our worship services and Wednesday Zoom bible studies. It is linked to our church website, or go to YouTube and search "Saint Peter Lutheran Church".

Important web links:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod lcms.org

NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org

LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

The “Lutheran Hour” Broadcast lhm.org



**You're invited to a Baby Care Package Assembly Event
to benefit ChoiceOne Pregnancy Resource Centers!**



When: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, 10am - 12:30pm (lunch provided)

Where: The Lutheran Church of the Messiah, 407 Nassau St, Princeton, NJ 08540
(park on Cedar Lane)

Who: **You** and many others. Bring family and friends -- people of all ages can help assemble the care packages, which will be donated to ChoiceOne.

What a great opportunity to join other NJ Lutherans in supporting new parents and their babies! The care package supplies will be purchased ahead of time, so no need to bring any with you.

***However, if anyone would like to contribute supplies to benefit the families served by ChoiceOne, unopened packages of diapers (any size) or infant wipes are always welcome. For information on obtaining volume discounts on diaper purchases, contact Messiah's project coordinator, Debbie Baer.

This project is funded by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church LWML (Somerset NJ), The Lutheran Church of the Messiah, the 2025 Partners in Mission Reformation service offering, and a generous matching grant from LCMS Life Ministry.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 15:15–21

- ¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my
persecutors.
In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear
reproach.
- ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate
them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
- ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of
revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was
upon me,
for you had filled me with
indignation.
- ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful
brook,
like waters that fail?
- ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
“If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not
what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
- ²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the LORD.
- ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of
the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of
the ruthless.”

Epistle: Romans 12:9–21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in

spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21–28

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”